

billion mark by the year end; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government, contemplate to remove the deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Sir, As per the latest available information regarding trade data from DGCI&S, the trade deficit for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US \$5.44 billion.

(b) and (c) As per DGCI&S data imports during February 1997 were valued at US \$ 3551 million while imports during February 1996 were valued at US \$2799 million. This represents a growth of 26.9%.

(d) and (e) No Sir. The trade deficit as per DGCI&S data for April-March 1996-97 (Prov.) is placed at US\$ 5.44 billion.

The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

#### Khadi and Village Industries Commission

\*593. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds being allocated to KVIC by the Government annually;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the grants to KVIC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission generate more jobs in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to encourage Khadi and Village Industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has provided the funds (Plan and Non-Plan) including the grants to Khadi and Village Industries Commission from year to year. The details of the funds released for the last four years and for the year 1997-98 are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Plan	20800	21600	33700	30820	34999
Non-Plan	32564	34100	32300	30910	31316
Total	53364	55700	66000	61730	66315

The funds are being allocated annually depending upon the proposals and the programmes submitted by the KVIC after the Annual Plan exercise. Over the years, Government is providing more and more grants to the KVIC for various KVIC programmes.

(d) and (e) Khadi and Village Industries Commission is the implementing agency for Khadi and Village Industry activities. KVIC have unique capacity to generate large employment in the rural areas at the lower capital cost per employment as compared to the other sectors responsible for creation of Jobs. It has been estimated that while in the major industries creation of one job required Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 3 lakhs in SSI, Rs. 42,000 in Khadi and less than Rs. 26,000 in the Village Industries. The KVIC has provided employment to the order of 60.22 lakhs (provisional) people in 1996-97 and has generated additional employment of about 3 lakhs in the year 1996-97.

(f) Based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee (HPC) on KVI Sector, KVIC has been implementing since 1995-96 a Rural Employment General Programme (REGP). The major constituents of this programme are (i) 125 Block Development Programme; (ii) District Special Employment Programme; (iii) National Programme on Leather, Handmade Paper, Beekeeping and Pottery; (iv) Special Projects in thrust areas; (v) Strengthening normal Village Industries Programme; and (vi) Extension of Khadi Programme.

In addition to this, Government has arranged for Khadi and Village Industries Commission a line of Bank credit of Rs. 1000 crores through a Consortium of Banks headed by State Bank of India.

#### Solar PV Pumps

\*594. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the progress made in generation and utilisation of solar energy during 8th plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; Statewise;